

Amendment to the Specification:

Please substitute the second paragraph on page 2/11 of the application, as follows:

A lighting device is known (DE 199 21 798~~89~~ A1). This known lighting device substantially consists of a balloon inflated with air or gas and of a luminous element including at least one electrically operated light source arranged inside the balloon. The luminous element and the body thereof, respectively, are at the same time designed as a closing element for closing the balloon opening. The light source is provided directly in the interior of the balloon, which is a drawback already because there is no possibility of exchanging the light source without removing the balloon from the body of the luminous element.